



Executive Directive 1 (2004)

GOVERNOR'S AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ACTION TEAM

Introduction

The agriculture and forestry industries are crucial, dynamic forces contributing to the total economic growth of the Commonwealth. Although these industries face significant change and challenges, great opportunities exist to promote sustainable growth and profitability. Because of the broad and diverse set of issues inherent in pursuing such opportunities, a coordinated, collaborative, and more formalized approach at the state level is needed. Furthermore, agencies in all areas of state government need to be aware of the impact their policies may have on the agriculture and forestry industries.

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 and Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby establish the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Action Team (hereby referred to as the "Action Team").

The Action Team

This Action Team shall be classified as a gubernatorial advisory board in accordance with Section 2.2-2100 of the Code of Virginia.

The Action Team shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Serve as a forum at the highest levels of state government for discussion of Virginia agriculture and forestry industry issues and of the impact on agriculture and forestry of state programs and policies.
2. Advise the Governor on strategies and policies to increase farm receipts, grow farm level profitability, and boost the competitive position of agriculture and forestry in the Commonwealth.
3. Recommend ways to make Virginia a more attractive location for farm enterprises and for future investments by agribusiness companies.

4. Examine workforce and career development needs for the agriculture and forestry industries.
5. Advise the Governor on how strong agriculture and forestry industries can help Virginia protect and preserve its natural resources and open spaces.
6. Advise the Governor on ways to enhance Virginia's competitive position compared with other states and regions in terms of leadership in agriculture and forestry.

The Action Team shall report annually to the Governor and shall issue such other reports and recommendations as necessary or as requested by the Governor.

Membership of the Action Team

The Action Team shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade shall serve as chair of the Action Team. Other members of the Action Team shall include:

- the Secretary of Natural Resources,
- the Secretary of Education,
- the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,
- the State Forester,
- the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality,
- the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation,
- the Dean of Agriculture at the Virginia State University,
- the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech,
- the Dean of the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech, and
- the Director of the Virginia Liaison Office.

The Governor at his discretion may appoint other members to the Action Team. In addition, industry representatives may be called upon by the Action Team to present and discuss relevant issues, especially those that would require cross collaboration; such groups could include, but not be limited to, the Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Agribusiness Council, Virginia Forestry Association, and Virginia Forest Products Association.

Members of the Action Team shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

Staff support necessary for the conduct of the work of the Action Team shall be provided by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Forestry, and other such executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate.

This Executive Directive shall be effective immediately upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2005, unless amended or rescinded by further Executive Directive.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 24th day of February 2004.

Mark R. Warner, Governor